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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR/Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT

Rumored Existence of Uranium Deposits in the Novovolynsk Area (Coal basin; coal production, power plant + high tension line construction at Hoseratov; possible shift of Polish-USSR boundary)

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A two-page report containing information on the Novovolynsk Coal Basin and rumored existence of uranium deposits in the coal basin

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The Novovolynsk Coal Basin is described as a new coal mining district, which occupies a large area between the towns Novovolynsk [N 50-43, E 24-06] and Velikiye Mosty [N 50-14, E 24-09]. Uranium mines are said to exist in the vicinity of Zhovtneve [sic] with deposits stretching from there into Poland to the Hrubieszow [N 50-48, E 23-55] district.

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the Soviet/Polish border will be shifted westward to include Hrubieszow. The report contains no information on the location of the uranium production facilities nor of the production or quality of the uranium ore.

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be erected according to the plan during the present Seven-Year Plan. The tourists are told that the mines are fully mechanized and that different production processes are automatized, but only the Novovolyns'ka mine No. 2 situated near the town of Novovolyns'k has been mechanized. This mine is sometimes shown to the tourists. Two plants in Novovolyns'ka are shown to the tourists: the plant for production of mining equipment and the plant for concrete mixing.

All coal mines of the Novovolynsky coal basin are subordinated to "Novovolyns'kvuhillia" ("Novovolynskugol) Trust whose offices are located in Novovolyns'k and through it to L'viv Economic Council. The town of Novovolyns'k is a center of the basin. It is a new town (building started in 1950) and it is well planned and built with new apartment houses, schools, movie theaters, large hospital. Its main street still enjoys the appellation :Stalin Ave. Asphalted highway connects Novovolyns'k with Volodymyr volyns'kyi and good highways with Sokal and Ivanychi (Ivanyche) on the Kovel-Rava rus'ka railroad. Ivanychi is now a site of the largest sugar refinery in Volhynia erected in the fifties and having a very nice workers' settlement erected in 1955. According to the preceding Five-Year Plan a railroad line should have connected Ivanychi and Novovolyns'k, but its construction has been abandoned by the Soviets, as was the preceding Five-Year Plan itself.

The Novovolynsky coal basin is served by the State Raion Electrical Station (GRES, in Ukrainian -DRES) in Dobrotvir, situated some 14 km to the north of Kamianka buz'ka (Kamionka strumilowa). Erection of Dobrotvir GRES started in 1955 and at present the first part of it has been completed. It should be fully completed in 1965 and then it will be the largest electrical power station in Western Ukraine. At present, high voltage lines are being built to connect the station with the cities of Luck and Rovno in Volhynia. A high voltage line connects the Dobrotvir DRES with Sokal and Novovolyns'k. The Dobrotvir DRES is out of limit for foreign tourists.

The bus communication in the Novovolynsky coal basin is maintained on the route: Volodymyr volyns'kyi -Novovolyns'k-Litovezh-Pravda-Sokal'. Another line connects Novovolyns'k and Ivanychi. A bus line connects Velyki mosty and the railway station in Parkhach. The railroad line Kovel-Rava rus'ka passes through Ivanychi-Sokal-Chervonohrad-Belz and Uhniv. However, the railroad lines Volodymyr volyns'kyi - Ustilug and Volodymyr volyns'kyi-Viinytsia(Vojnica) which existed prior to the World War II had been dismantled by the Soviets after the war. The railroad line Sapezhanka-Krystynopol'(Chervonohrad) which existed prior to the World War II, was inactive in the first years after the war. Its reconstruction started with the development of the Novovolynsky coal basin in 1950 and now it serves Dobrotvir and Parkhach. The passenger trains-L'viv-Kovel' run through Rava rus'ka, because the bridges on the Rata and Solokiia rivers which were destroyed during the war, are only temporarily repaired.

The railroad line from Kovel through Luboml' and Yagodyn on the Soviet-Polish border and, further, to Lublin and Warsaw, has remained being standard gauge (4ft 8 1/2 inch), and not 5ft 6 inch as is usual in the USSR. This enables the trains from Poland to reach Kovel in the USSR which is one of the biggest railway junctions in Soviet Ukraine.

VELIKIYE MOSTY
EW 50-14, E 24-04

The local populace explains the heavy concentration of the Soviet Army and FG units in the Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/05/20 : CIA-RDP80T00246A061100610002-5 Novovolynsky coal basin which occupies the western part of Volhynia and the north-western part of Galicia. It occupies a large area between the town of Mosty velyki in the Zabuzhsky raion of the L'viv province and the town of Novovolynsk in the province of Volhynia. [redacted] not only coal, but also uranium ar.50X1-HUM in the basin. The shift of the Soviet-Polish frontier in 1951 was dictated by Moscow to the Polish government because allegedly the Soviet geologists found uranium deposits in the area which was later included in the USSR.

The Novovolynsky basin itself as sort of a restricted zone where the movements are rigidly controlled by the FG patrols, even on the routes and in the villages quite remote from the present Soviet-Polish frontierline. Frequently the buses are stopped by the FG patrols and the passengers' documents are controlled, their destination questioned, etc. The area is out of limit for foreigners and only "progressive" tourists are allowed in on the recommendation from the L'viv Economic Council or L'viv Provincial Executive Committee.

The rumor of the existence of uranium deposits in the area has been persistent among the local populace all the time. Uranium mines are said to exist in the area of Zhovtneve and the deposits are said to stretch in the direction of Polish border and behind it (Hrubieszow). There has been a persistent rumor, too, that the Soviet-Polish borderline will again be shifted to the west to include the district of Hrubieszow which was largely inhabited by the Ukrainians before the war and whose Ukrainian population was transferred to Soviet Ukraine after the war. The rumor is strongly believed on the Polish side of the frontier and the Polish settlers in the district of Hrubieszow regard their settlement in this area as temporary causing thus the Polish administration many troubles in the economic field.

The development of a new coal basin in Western Ukraine has been widely propagandized to the tourists. It has been pictured as follows: The development started in 1950 and the production of black coal ~~was~~ reached in 1955 205,000 tons. Now the production of 12 mines in the area surpasses 2 million tons and in 1965 it should reach 10 million tons. 12 new mines should be

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